

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Device for the portioning of a piece of food into portions with a predetermined weight or a predetermined thickness, comprising:

~~with~~ at least one oblong insertion chamber (4) for the insertion of the piece of food,

~~with~~ a piston (8) that can be inserted axially from one end into the insertion chamber (4) for the compression of the piece of food in the insertion chamber and for the gradual or continuous axial infeed,

with a knife (3) arranged in a movable manner on the insertion chamber (4) for cutting the portion protruding from the insertion chamber from the piece of food, and

~~characterized in that~~

an insertion drum arranged in such a manner that it can be rotated around its axis (5) ~~is provided and in that~~ the insertion chamber (4) or several insertion chambers (4) are part of the insertion drum (1).

2. (Currently amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising several insertion chambers (4), which run parallel to each other and to the axis (5) of the insertion drum or at an angle to each other and to the axis of the insertion drum, ~~are provided~~ in the insertion drum (1).

3. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end of the insertion chamber (4) turned away from the piston (8) is provided with a portioning drum (2) arranged in a rotatable manner around its axis (11) that contains one or more portioning chambers (10) and

in that the knife (2) for cutting the portion located in the portioning chamber (10) from the piece of food is provided between the insertion drum (1) and the portioning drum (2).

4. (Currently amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the axis (11) of the portioning drum (2) runs coaxial, parallel or at an angle to the axis (5) of the insertion drum (1).

5. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 3 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising ~~the portioning chamber (10) has a chamber floor (17) arranged in a movable manner on the side turned away from the insertion drum (1) and in that~~ a first mechanical gear unit or a first electromotor, pneumatic or hydraulic

power unit ~~is provided~~ for the setting of the a chamber floor (17) of the portioning chamber,

the chamber floor arranged in a movable manner on the side turned away from the insertion drum.

6. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a curve profile (20), an adjusting screw (21) touching the curve profile, and a track roller (19) transferring the movement of the curve profile to the chamber floor ~~are provided~~ for the manual or automatic setting of the position of the chamber floor (17).

7. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a second mechanical gear unit or a second electromotor, pneumatic or hydraulic power unit ~~is provided~~ that moves the chamber floor in the first direction turned away from the knife after the completion of the cutting procedure, in order to release the knife.

8. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second gear unit or the second power unit is provided in order to move the moveable chamber floor of the portioning chamber in the opposite second direction and to eject the portion from the portioning chamber.

9. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with claim 7 ~~or 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second gear unit or the second power unit is part of the first gear unit or the first power unit.

10. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of claims~~ claim 3 ~~through 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the channels for supplying and removing air ~~are provided~~ in the a chamber floor (17) of the portioning chambers (10) and in that the portioning drum (2) is equipped with a media supply tub (22) into which the channels flow.

11. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of claims~~ claim 3 ~~through 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a rotation drive ~~is provided~~ for both the portioning drum and the knife.

12. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a feed (7) and a power unit (9) ~~are provided~~ on the side of the insertion drum (1) for the movement of the piston (8).

13. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knife (3) is arranged in a rotatable manner around an axis on the insertion drum or between the insertion drum (1) and the portioning drum (2), whereby the axis runs parallel or coaxial to the axis (5) of the insertion drum (1).

14. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knife (3) has a cutting edge (12) with a curved gradient.

15. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~claim 13 or 14~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knife (3) is disc-like and has the form of a section of a circle, whereby the central angle is between 200° and 300°.

16. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 through 12, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a power unit ~~is provided~~ for the knife that pushes and retracts the knife in a direction, and ~~in that~~ the knife has a cutting edge that runs at an angle against the knife's direction of motion.

17. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of claims~~ claim 3 through 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knife (3) in a first position releases a portioning chamber (10) of the portioning drum (2) in order to press the piece of food over the piston (8) and into the portioning chamber (8) and in that the knife (3) locks the insertion chamber (4) in a second position after the cutting of the portion located in the portioning chamber (10).

18. (Currently Amended) Portioning device in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a knife gate ~~is provided~~ on or in the insertion chamber for the cutting of cubes.

19. (Currently Amended) Process for the portioning of a piece of food into portions with a predetermined weight or a predetermined thickness, in particular under the use of

a device in accordance with claim 5, ~~6, 7, 8, or 9~~, characterized through comprising the following process steps

~~in that~~ compressing the piece of food ~~is compressed~~ in an insertion chamber (4),
~~in that~~ conveying the piece of food ~~is conveyed~~ over a piston (8) into a portioning chamber (10),

~~in that~~ cutting the portion of food located in the portioning chamber (10) ~~is cut~~ from the remaining piece of food by a knife (3), ~~whereby~~

locking of the knife (3) ~~locks~~ the portioning chamber (10) in the direction of the insertion chamber (4) after the completion of the cutting procedure by the knife,

~~in that~~ moving a moveable chamber floor (17) of the portioning chamber (10) ~~is moved~~ in the first direction away from the knife (3) in order release the knife,

~~in that~~ moving the portioning chamber (10) ~~is moved~~ away from the insertion chamber (4), and

~~in that~~ carrying the portion ~~is carried~~ out of the portioning chamber (10).

20. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ comprises the additional step of moving the movable chamber floor (17) of the portioning chamber (10) ~~is moved~~ in the opposite second direction in order to eject the portion from the portioning chamber (10).